AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of treating an individual having irritable bowel syndrome ~~or a related disorder~~, comprising the step of:

administering to said individual a pharmacologically effective dose of a luminally active anti-inflammatory ~~or immunosuppressive~~ compound with minimal or no systemic side effects.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 , wherein said luminally active anti-inflammatory compound is a steroid.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein said steroid is beclomethasone.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein said beclomethasone is beclomethasone dipropionate.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein said beclomethasone dipropionate is orBec™.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein said orBec™ is administered in a dose of from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 20 mg/kg.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein said anti-inflammatory compound is budesonide, clobetasol, halbetasol, fluocinonide, halcinonide, betamethasone, mometisone, alclometasone, triamcinolone or fluocinolone.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein said immunosuppressive compound is selected from the group consisting of methotrexate, azothiorpine, 6 mercaptopurine, cyclosporine and FK506.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein said a related disorder is non-ulcer dyspepsia or noncardiac chest pain.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of ~~inhibiting~~ alleviating the ~~onset of~~ symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome ~~or a related disorder~~ in an individual in need of such treatment, comprising the step of:

administering to the individual a ~~prophylactically~~ pharmacologically effective dose of a luminally active anti-inflammatory ~~or immunosuppressive compound~~ with minimal or no systemic side effects such that said administration increases the threshold of pain to colorectal distention, thereby alleviating the symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome in the individual.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein said luminally active anti-inflammatory compound is a steroid.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein said steroid is beclomethasone.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein said beclomethasone is beclomethasone dipropionate.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein said beclomethasone dipropionate is orBec™.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein said orBec™ is administered in a dose of from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 20 mg/kg.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method of claim 10, wherein said luminally active anti-inflammatory compound is budesonide.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of claim 10, wherein said immunosuppressive compound is methotrexate, azothiorpine, 6 mercaptopurine, cyclosporine and FK506.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein said a related disorder is non-ulcer dyspepsia or noncardiac chest pain.